

**Minutes of Land Use, Parks and Environment (LUPE) Committee
April 3, 2018**

Vice Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Bill Mitchell, Keith Hammitt, Robert Kolb, and Ted Wysocki. **Absent:** Dave Zimmermann (Chair), Kathleen Cummings, and Tom Schellinger.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Parks and Land Use Director Dale Shaver, Land Resources Manager Perry Lindquist, and Supervisor James Heinrich. Minutes Recorded by Beth Schwartz, County Board Office.

Approve Minutes of March 20, 2018

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Wysocki to approve the minutes of March 20, 2018. Motion carried 4-0.

Future Meeting Date(s): May 15, 2018

Legislative Update

Spaeth said session is complete. The sexually violent persons bill was signed with a veto that limits the County's placement options. Spaeth said Shaver is working with other agencies to find viable placements. The juvenile justice bill was signed into law although small changes may be made to it in the near future.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 172-O-097: Modify The 2018 Budget For The Department Of Parks And Land Use To Appropriate Expenditures For The Repair Of The School Section Lake Dam, Transfer Contingency Funds And Authorize The Department Of Parks And Land Use To Apply For And Accept State Grants

Shaver said this ordinance modifies the Department's budget to appropriate \$200,000 in operating expenses for costs related to the repair of the School Section Lake Dam. In January a 25-foot wide gully formed on the earthen berm caused by muskrat burrows. The lake was immediately closed for ice fishing and by February, all stop logs in the water level control structure were removed, drawing down the lake level by 30 inches and temporarily stabilizing the berm. A technical advisory team was formed with cooperating state and federal agencies as well as the School Section Lake Management District to facilitate dam repair plans and coordinate with other lake management efforts. Shaver said the proposed project would replace and reinforce impacted areas after investigating and analyzing the existing dam structure. The ordinance requires the execution of a written agreement with the School Section Lake Management District that limits future County liability for dam repairs, prior to the expenditure of funds. The Department will apply for the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant funding, estimated at 50% of total dam repair costs.

Shaver gave a brief historical overview of School Section Lake and said it became the first County Park in 1939 including a public boat launch. The surface area of the lake is 125 acres including 16 acres of wetlands on the lakeside of the berm. Maximum lake depth was 8 feet before a 1994 dredging project increasing depths to 20 feet, and by 2005 maximum depth reduced 12-15 feet due to sedimentation. Watershed is approximately 4,000 acres. The earthen berm was not originally constructed properly in terms of material or the construction technique of compaction. Three major berm regrading projects occurred in 1953, 1978 and 1990 for approximately \$84,000 in total costs. Recent dam inspections noted several "boils" along the base of the backslap 400-feet north of the dam, often caused by muskrat

burrows intercepting the saturation zone. Kolb asked about muskrat destruction and if this repair will address the issue. Shaver said it is difficult to find professionals who can humanely and effectively limit the natural burrowing of the animal. Wysocki asked about the history of the School Section Lake Management District. Shaver said it was formed in the 1980's and includes 77 landowners with a total assessed value of \$21 million. In 1994, the lake was dredged and the District tried to assess the County for 46% of costs (\$260,000) but settled a lawsuit over the issue for \$125,000 plus ten years without assessments.

Lindquist said if the date to apply for the grant wasn't so soon approaching, he and his team would further study the area by forming a trench within the berm. The material use permitting process has not been done yet. Shaver has been discussing options with the District to decide if dredging and upkeep is too expensive. If so, this project would not move forward with great effort toward stabilization instead allowing the lake level to remain stagnant. Or, the County could make an investment in repairs and then turn jurisdiction over to the District to walk away from the responsibility. Wysocki asked what would happen if the grant is not received. Shaver said the project cannot occur without the grant and the ordinance reflects that. Lindquist described the grant cycle, in which it is applied for, applicants are notified of their ranking, and the commitment to the project is made once it is bid out and the bid proposal is turned into the DNR. Discussions with the District can continue during this process.

MOTION: Hammitt moved, second by Kolb to approve Ordinance 172-O-097. Motion carried 4-0.

View Retzer Environmental Learning Center Interactive Exhibit

The committee toured the Retzer Environmental Learning Center's newly remodeled interactive exhibits. The remodeled space provides an additional classroom or meeting space, which is also a rental option for board meetings, team retreats and small public events. The exhibits integrate recycling, composting, natural resources and water conservation into the existing ecology exhibits and programming. The programming includes science and environmental education through comprehensive and dynamic learning experiences in order to enhance the future of resource recovery, conservation and sustainability in the County.

MOTION: Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. from lack of quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Hammitt
Secretary